



**TOWN OF UXBRIDGE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Town Hall Room 102
21 South Main Street
Uxbridge, MA 01569-1851
508-278-8600 Fax 508-278-8605
town.manager@uxbridge-ma.gov**

**Jill R. Myers
Town Manager**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Board of Selectmen

FROM: Jill R. Myers, Town Manager

DATE: July 21, 2006

SUBJECT: Town Manager's Report for the BOS Meeting of July 24, 2006

Follow-up on complaint - Habitat for Sports: Chief Freitas responded to our request for information and stated that the Police Department will respond to parking and noise complaints at any time and the persons affected should call the police and a response will be initiated as soon as possible. In response to the specific complaints, Chief Freitas noted that the Habitat is patrolled on a frequent basis in the course of normal police patrols. He checked police logs as far back as February, 2006, and only found one parking complaint that was addressed in March, 2006. The officer on patrol that evening responded to the complaint and found that there was no parking violation. "No Parking" signs are posted and checked on a regular basis. With regards to the noise complaints, Chief Freitas checked the same log entries as stated above and found only one complaint filed on 7/14/06. An officer was dispatched and addressed the situation. The individuals involved in the complaint were not proven to be customers of the Habitat. Prior to 2/2006, there are no noise complaints on record.

Building Inspector Nick Gazerro inspected the Habitat on 7/17/06. He confirmed the uses, but more information is pending. I also met with Mr. Ferrar who provided me a history of the site and noted that most of the concerns raised were not validated. He may come before the BOS in Citizens Forum or ask to be scheduled on an agenda.

Follow-up on complaint – River Road: Chief Freitas surveyed the River Road area for evidence of illegal dumping and suspicious activity. He stated that if the Police Department can determine who the offender is, they will have them remove the debris. Chief Freitas noted that the Police Department has filed littering charges on occasion. A log check back to February, 2006, revealed only one reported entry of suspicious dumping in this area. The incident was discovered by two patrol officers. Chief Freitas stated that when those responsible for dumping cannot be identified, the DPW is usually asked to clean up the area.

DPW Superintendent Larry Bombara reported that by the end of the week of 7/10/06, 99% of the material had been removed with the remainder to be picked up on 7/18/06. Larry reported that two dumpsters had been filled at a cost to the Town of approximately \$1,000.

Chief Freitas asked the BOS to encourage Uxbridge residents to contact the Police Department if they have any information relative to further dumping on River Road or any other road in Town.

Pout Pond: Staff has arranged for weekly testing of the water at Pout Pond in conjunction with the Board of Health. To date, two tests have been performed and the water was found to have low levels of EColi (<10 last week and 20 this week). I will be meeting with representatives from the DPW, BOH, Conservation Commission and Recreation Committee to discuss issues relative to Pout Pond on 7/31/06. Areas of concern include the absence of bathroom facilities, trash barrels, and trash disposal.

Blanchard Building Repainting: On Wednesday, 7/12, my office received a call from Brian Knuuttia, General Counsel for the Worcester County Sheriff's Department, to inform us that work on the Blanchard Building was being shut down pending an investigation by the Sheriff's Department, OSHA, and DEP to determine whether or not the inmates were being exposed to lead paint. While safety equipment (masks, self contained/vacuums for paint shavings, inmates returning from the Blanchard Building were covered in dust which could contain lead paint particles. Att. Knuuttia explained that the inmates were being tested for elevated levels of lead and that until such time a determination was made as to how best to mitigate the situation, the work on the building would be on hold. He did reiterate, however, the Sheriff's commitment to finishing the project.

My office was also contacted on Wednesday by Lee Dillard-Adams and John Kronopoulos of the DEP regarding the disposal of materials being removed from the Blanchard Building, in particular, the bags of paint shavings collected from the vacuum system on paint shavers the inmates have been using. Staff collected a bag of shavings which has been sent out for TCLP testing which will determine the parts per million of lead paint found in the shavings. These test results, which will be available within the next two weeks, must be reported back to DEP. DEP will make a determination as to how future shavings must be disposed of: via hazardous waste disposal or regular dumpster disposal (which has been past practice).

On Friday, 7/14, I met with the OSHA Lead Inspector along with members of the Blanchard Reuse Committee, the Board of Health, the Fire Chief and Deputy Moore. The Inspector noted that the area was clean with the exception of some paint chips on the pavement. She stated that the inmates could return to work to prime the exposed wood only, and that she would make a determination on how the project may resume and any necessary mitigation efforts. She also requested information on the paint shavers being used and collected some paint chips that would be tested. She stated that her report will note the appropriate safety breathing devices and clothing. The breathing devices are comprehensive and Deputy Moore will contact me once he has an idea of how long it would take to comply with these guidelines. The inspector did note that proper safety equipment was onsite and that the violation was not intentional. Apparently, the inmates removed the holding container (vacuum) from the paint shavers as they clogged easily and this is why they were returning to the jail covered in paint dust.

On Monday, 7/19, I was informed that the inmates were back at work at the Blanchard Building, but contrary to orders from OSHA, they were continuing to sand and paint. I visited the site and had the Deputy (Noonan) stop all work. He agreed to have the inmates clean up the site and not return until the Town receives an official determination from OSHA which is expected this week.

Blanchard Roof: Staff reviewed the contract which was signed at the time the Blanchard Roof was fixed. Mike Legendre arranged for a roofing company to come out and assess where the roof is leaking and potential causes. During this inspection, it was discovered that the roof is in excellent shape, and that the leaking is caused by areas surrounding the cupola which needs to be caulked and repainted as well as the chimney which needs to be repointed. The Blanchard Reuse Committee was made aware of these findings as the inmates, if willing, could repair the cupola as part of the overall repainting of the building. Mike will be following up with a brick mason to obtain a quote on repointing the chimney.

Blanchard Designer Contract: On Friday, 7/21, I met with Charlie Van Voorhis of the Architectural Firm Durland Van Voorhis concerning the Blanchard Building Schematic Design. We finalized the contract and have scheduled a tentative project kick-off meeting for 8/1. It will be an open meeting for any interested parties.

Public Safety Committee Recommendations: The Public Safety Committee met on 7/13/06 and voted on the following recommendations:

A citizen request to have a “Stop” sign installed on Richardson Street at High Street: there is a yield sign at this location now and the committee feels it is not the proper control for this intersection configuration;

That the BOS not accept the proposed street name “Maple Shire Drive” for a subdivision off Mendon Street. The concern of similarity of this name to other streets in existence could lead to confusion in the event of an emergency. The BOS Clerk has notified the developer of this recommendation and he has come forward with an alternate name which will be considered at your next meeting.

Blackstone River Bikeway Project: DPW Superintendent Bombara and I met with representatives of Mass Highway, Cullican Engineering, and Mark Jewell. We provided comments on the 25% plans for bikeway project (attached in BOS non-agenda correspondence). Our comments related to the required (minimal) land takings for two of the segments, where the bikeway will cross the proposed new high school access road, and proximity to the well fields. It is estimated the project may commence this Spring. Public hearings will be done, but they stated that the matter of the takings for the route will need to be addressed prior to the Hearings.

Collective Bargaining:

Town Hall/Dispatchers Unit: I am still awaiting notice of the Union’s ratification of the MOU.

DPW: A negotiation session is scheduled for 7/25.

Pole hearings 7/18: Recent pole relocation hearings were published, held, and approved for a pole on High Street.

Upper Town Hall: Clean up efforts continue relative to the School Department's anticipated move to Upper Town Hall. On Friday, 7/21, members of the School Committee and a few students joined efforts with Town Hall staff to relocate and remove boxes currently stored in Upper Town Hall. Substantial progress has been made in moving forward to prepare this space for occupancy by the School Department.

Follow-up on Little League Insurance Policy: Staff spoke with Steve Taylor from the Recreation Commission concerning the issue of liability insurance for the Cal Ripken Little League. They inquired as they wanted to participate in a Tournament and had to provide proof of coverage. Mr. Taylor informed us that the Recreation Commission pays for Accident insurance only for the League, as the liability is needed only when the League is asked to travel out of Town. Staff followed up with representatives from the Little League who informed us that the Little League purchased their own liability policy. Staff also spoke with the Town's insurance carrier, Braley & Wellington, and discovered that other Towns only pay for Town-sponsored sports teams (versus Leagues), and those teams carry accident insurance only. The invoice for the FY07 accident insurance policy has not yet been received or paid. Mr. Taylor agreed to follow-up with the insurance carrier and ask them to submit a binder as well as a bill a.s.a.p. Once staff is in receipt of the invoice, it will be processed immediately to ensure that there is no lapse in insurance coverage. Steve informed us that in years past, the policy has not been paid until sometime in September. I am investigating why the Town provides such coverage via the Recreation Commission and if such practice should continue.

Exit Interview with Mr. John Karagosian, Board of Registrars: I met with Mr. Karagosian on 7/11.

Mills:

Stanley Woolen (Nick Deane): I met briefly with Mr. Deane on 7/19 to receive an update on the renovation efforts. This fall he plans to sand blast the interior where the asbestos was removed. He will provide a status report;

Waucantuck: I have a meeting tentatively scheduled with Rob Josephs the week of 8/1.

Website Committee: I met with the Website Committee on 7/12 and learned that the Town website receives over 40,000 hits per month. Since it's inception in 2005, the site has received over 500,000 hits. Staff will be working with the website committee and other Town committees and Boards in the coming weeks to ensure the submission of agendas, minutes, and updated information.

Blanchard Reuse Committee Resignation: Joseph Baer, Chair of the Blanchard Reuse Committee, resigned his position last week. The Committee informed staff that they would be scheduling a meeting in the near future to reorganize. David Moriarty submitted his resignation on 7/21.

Cultural Council Vacancy: We have not had anyone come forward to express interest in filling the vacancy on the Cultural Council. The vacancy is being advertised via the Town Clerk's bulletin board as well as on local cable. Interested applicants should fill out a talent bank form which can be obtained in my office or downloaded from the Town website.

New Hires/Vacancies: The new part-time clerk in the Office of the Town Clerk has resigned to take a full-time teaching position. Staff is in the process of re-reviewing applications submitted during the last recruitment. This position has been posted in-house in compliance with the SEIU union contract and is available in August. We also continue to advertise for the Health Agent position and have received two inquiries/applications so far.

Vacation/Time Off: Please note that I will be out of Town on 7/27 and 7/28. In my absence, Chief Freitas will be the acting Town Manager. In addition, Jenn Cederberg will be on vacation the week of July 24th. My office will be staffed full-time by the two part-time clerks: Karen Cangello and Joe Smith.